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him into the sacrifice of scientific accuracy to picturesqueness of statement. Here and there, also, misprints make it necessary to exercise a little caution in using the book.

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*The Origin of Property, and the Formation of the Village Community.* By JAN ST. LEWINSKI. (London: Constable & Company, Ltd. 1913. Pp. xi, 71. 3s. 6d.)

Despite the title, the really important discussions herein have to do rather with the growth of systems of property than with its origin. The four chief factors in the problem are thus stated: the economic principle, the principle of numerical strength, the growth of population, and the relation of nature to human wants. With special reference to property in land, the author points out that it is erroneous to speak of common property among nomadic peoples, since, while every individual has a right to the free use of the soil, the community has no right to dispose of it. In general, property will be found to be individual "where the labor unit is an individual or family; it will be common when the labor unit is a collective group." Similarly, regulations as to use of land will differ according to the labor necessary to prepare it for use. Modern reformers who are accustomed to point to primitive common ownership of land as a natural and universal condition will find little encouragement in the present book. Exactly the opposite condition is declared by the author to have been the original one.

As a matter of fact, the village community is shown to have been a relatively late development and to have been only a passing phase of economic evolution. It characterizes that period which lies between a great growth of population and the time when agriculture becomes intensive. Growth of population, indeed, is the chief dynamic agent in producing changes in the status of property in land. Contrary to the older view, the village community was a natural growth, and was not much affected by the factors of race, migration, imitation, or legislation.

The author gives most attention to Russian conditions, but he also studies the German mark and the village communities of India, Java, and early England. Brief as this book is, being the outcome of lectures delivered at the London School of Economics, it is a valuable adjunct to the older works of Maine, Maurer,

Seeböhm, and Baden-Powell. To the average student who does not read Russian it is particularly useful because it presents in compact form a large amount of material from Russian sources not otherwise available.

ULYSSES G. WEATHERLY.

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- ALLEN, F. and JONES, D. A. *An atlas of commercial geography*. (New York: Putnam. 1913.)
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- DE BRAY, A. J. *L'essor industriel et commercial du peuple canadien*. (Montreal: Librairie Beauchemin. 1913.)
- BRIGHAM, J. *The life and services of Senator James Harlan*. (Iowa City: State Hist. Soc. 1913.)
- CARTWRIGHT, R. *Reminiscences*. (Toronto: William Briggs. 1913. Pp. 408.)  
Reviewed in *The Economist*, September 6, 1913.
- CHANCELLOR, W. E. *A life of Silas Wright 1795-1847, United States senator from New York 1883-1844, governor of the state of New York 1844-1846*. (New York: W. C. O'Donnell, Jr. 1913. Pp. 128. \$1.)
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- CONNELLEY, W. E. *The life of Preston B. Plumb, 1837-1891, United States senator from Kansas for fourteen years*. (Chicago: Browne & Howell. 1913. Pp. 6, 475. \$3.50.)
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